

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the claims as filed with the claims set forth below.

1. (Currently amended) A sheet material clamp comprising:
a rigid clamp base having a select length and a clamping surface;
at least two means for applying clamping pressure attached to the rigid clamp base,
~~the~~each means for applying clamping pressure being spaced along the length of the rigid clamp base ~~and at least one of the means for applying clamping pressure being attached to the rigid clamp base in a manner enabling it to move lengthwise relative to the clamp base;~~ and
a pressure foot operatively associated with each means for applying clamping pressure, the pressure foot configured such that actuation of the means for applying clamping pressure drives the pressure foot toward the clamping surface.

2-3. Canceled.

4. (Original) The sheet material clamp of claim 1 wherein each means for applying clamping pressure comprises:
a female threaded socket formed in a clamping frame;
a mating male threaded shaft, threaded through the female threaded socket, the male threaded shaft having a first end operatively associated with the pressure foot, and a second end opposite the first end; and
a handle operatively associated with the second end of the male threaded shaft configured such that rotation of the handle can drive the pressure foot toward the clamping surface.

5. (Original) The sheet material clamp of claim 1 wherein each means for applying clamping pressure comprises:
an actuator;
a drive shaft operatively associated with the actuator; and
the pressure foot being operatively associated with the drive shaft such that actuation of the actuator advances the drive shaft and thereby drives the pressure foot toward the clamping surface.

6. (Original) The sheet material clamp of claim 5 wherein each actuator is fluid driven.

7. (Currently amended) The sheet material clamp of claim 5 wherein each actuator is fluid driven and part of the same single fluid circuit, whereby each actuator is substantially simultaneously actuated by application of fluid pressure to the circuit.

8. (Original) The sheet material clamp of claim 1 wherein the clamp base is a substantially elongate rectangular bar.

9. (Original) The sheet material clamp of claim 4 wherein the clamp base is a substantially elongate rectangular bar.

10. (Original) The sheet material clamp of claim 5 wherein the clamp base is a substantially elongate rectangular bar.

11. (Original) The sheet material clamp of claim 1 wherein the clamp base is a channel member having a channel opening sized to receive at least two juxtaposed sheets of sheet material therein.

12. (Original) The sheet material clamp of claim 4 wherein the clamp base is a channel member having a channel opening sized to receive at least two juxtaposed sheets of sheet material therein.

13. (Original) The sheet material clamp of claim 5 wherein the clamp base is a channel member having a channel opening sized to receive at least two juxtaposed sheets of sheet material therein.

14. (Original) The sheet material clamp of claim 1 wherein the clamp base comprises at least two lengthwise clamp base segments each having a clamping surface joined in

series by a hinge, whereby lengthwise segments are pivotable lengthwise relative to each other while maintaining each clamping surface substantially coplanar.

15. (Original) The sheet material clamp of claim 8 wherein the clamp base comprises at least two lengthwise clamp base segments each having a clamping surface joined in series by a hinge, whereby lengthwise segments are pivotable lengthwise relative to each other while maintaining each clamping surface substantially coplanar.

16. (Original) The sheet material clamp of claim 11 wherein the clamp base comprises at least two lengthwise clamp base segments each having a clamping surface joined in series by a hinge, whereby lengthwise segments are pivotable lengthwise relative to each other while maintaining each clamping surface substantially coplanar.

17. (Original) The sheet material clamp of claim 16 where a hinge is operatively associated with each clamp base segment on opposite sides of the channel opening.

18. (Original) The sheet material clamp of claim 14 wherein at least one means for applying clamping pressure is attached to each clamp base segment.

19. (Original) The sheet material clamp of claim 18 wherein each means for applying clamping pressure comprises:

a female threaded socket formed in a clamping frame;

a mating male threaded shaft, threaded through the female threaded socket, the male threaded shaft having a first end operatively associated with the pressure foot, and a second end opposite the first end; and

a handle operatively associated with the second end of the male threaded shaft configured such that rotation of the handle can drive the pressure foot toward the clamping surface.

20. (Original) The sheet material clamp of claim 18 wherein each means for applying clamping pressure comprises:

an actuator;

a drive shaft operatively associated with the actuator; and
the pressure foot being operatively associated with the drive shaft such that actuation of
the actuator advances the drive shaft and thereby drives the pressure foot toward the clamping
surface.

21. (New) A sheet material clamp comprising:
 - a rigid clamp base having a select length and a clamping surface;
 - at least two means for applying clamping pressure attached to the rigid clamp base, each
means for applying clamping pressure being spaced along the length of the rigid clamp base; and
 - a pressure foot operatively associated with each means for applying clamping pressure,
the pressure foot configured such that actuation of the means for applying clamping pressure
drives the pressure foot toward the clamping surface, wherein each means for applying clamping
pressure comprises:
 - an actuator;
 - a drive shaft operatively associated with the actuator; and
 - the pressure foot being operatively associated with the drive shaft such that actuation of
the actuator advances the drive shaft and thereby drives the pressure foot toward the clamping
surface.

22. (New) The sheet material clamp of claim 21 wherein each actuator is fluid driven
and part of a single fluid circuit, whereby each actuator is substantially simultaneously actuated
by application of fluid pressure to the circuit.